Withdrawal of North Korea from NPT

263. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the developments leading to the decision of North Korea to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIG VI JAY SINGH): (a) Yes.The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in a letter addressed to the President of the United Nations Security Council on January 10,2003, communicated that DPRK's withdrawal for the NPT will be effectuated fully from 11 January 2003.

(b) DPRK has also revoked its safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), removed installations for that purpose placed by the IAEA in DPRK and expelled the IAEA inspectors.

India has supported the resolutions of the Board of Governors of IAEA stressing, *inter alia,* continuation of IAEA safeguards in DPRK.

Evacuation notice to Keralites in **UAE**

264. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ultimatum issued by the UAE Government to thousands of expatriate Keralites to leave the country by April 2003;

(b) if so, the number of people likely to be affected thereby and the extent of its economic impact on the State;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for their safe return and to get their wage arrears and other benefits;'